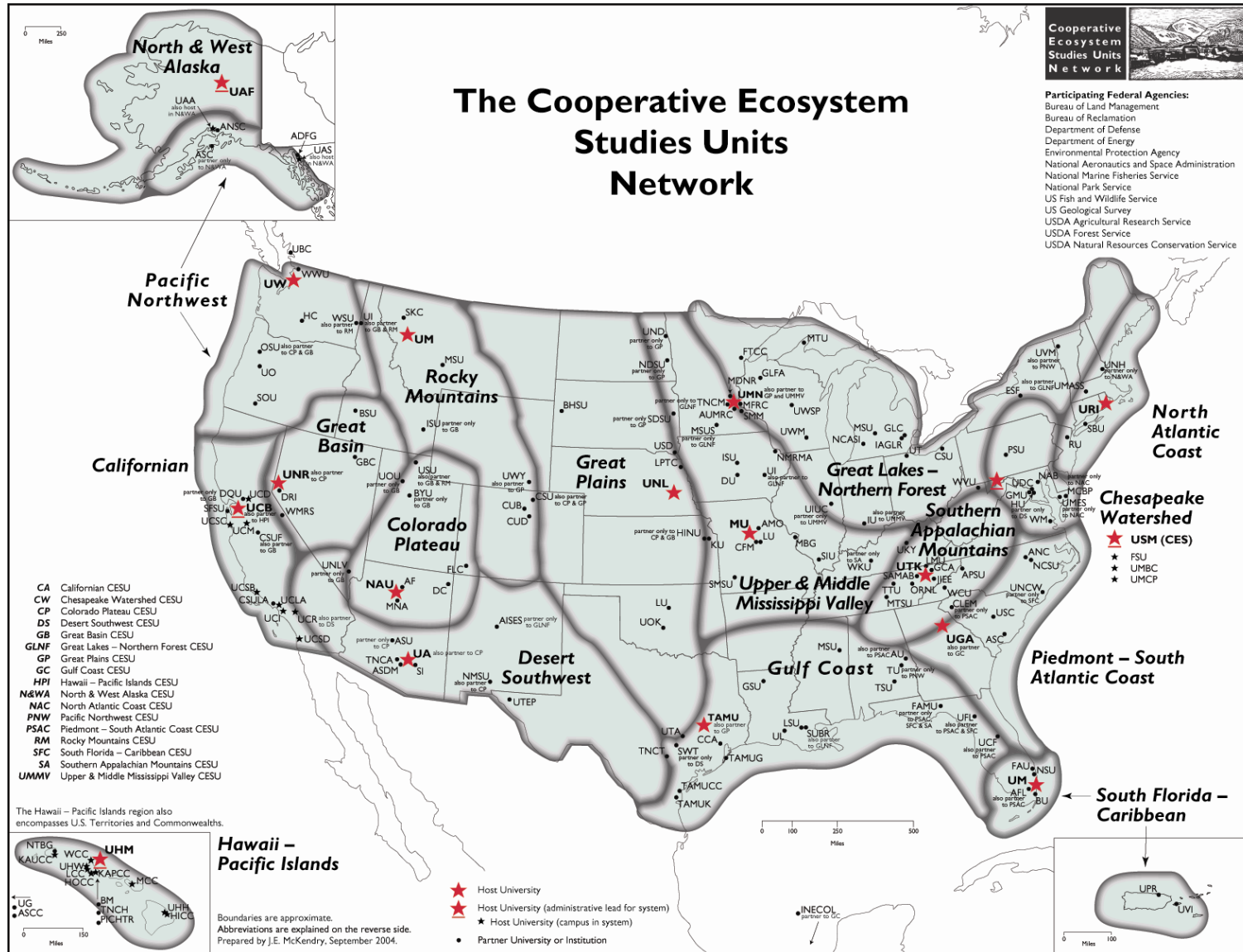


National Park Service Natural Resource Challenge



Revitalize and expand the natural resource program within the park service and improve park management through greater reliance on scientific knowledge

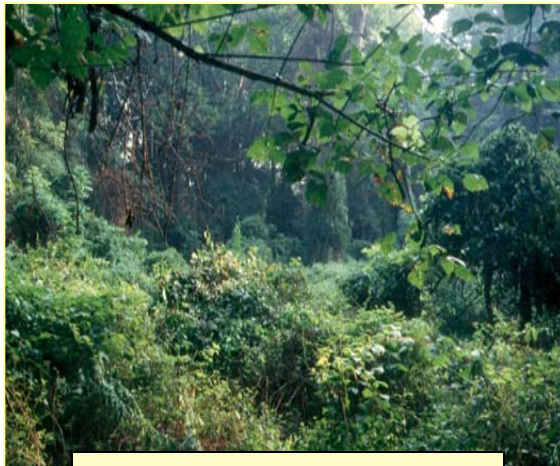
NPS Natural Resource Challenge



NPS Natural Resource Challenge



Goal of Exotic Plant Management Teams



**Invaded
Site**



**Effective
Control**



**Ecosystem
Restoration**

NPS Natural Resource Challenge



Wildlife Health Team

- Fully staffed team with: Wildlife veterinarian, biologist, NEPA coordinator, Wildlife technician and veterinary technician (CESU partners)
- Disease management planning assistance to parks and regions
- Scientific presentations
- Investigation into alternative management options for CWD
- Avian flu monitoring direction and coordination with the U.S. Public Health Service



NPS Natural Resource Challenge



NRPP Restoration Projects

- 125 parks report to restoration goals
- 437,000 acres targeted for restoration
- Several hundred million dollars in outstanding needs
- Established stable restoration funding (\$850,000)
- 61 park projects at \$7.4 million
- Increased restoration expertise available to parks



NPS Natural Resource Challenge

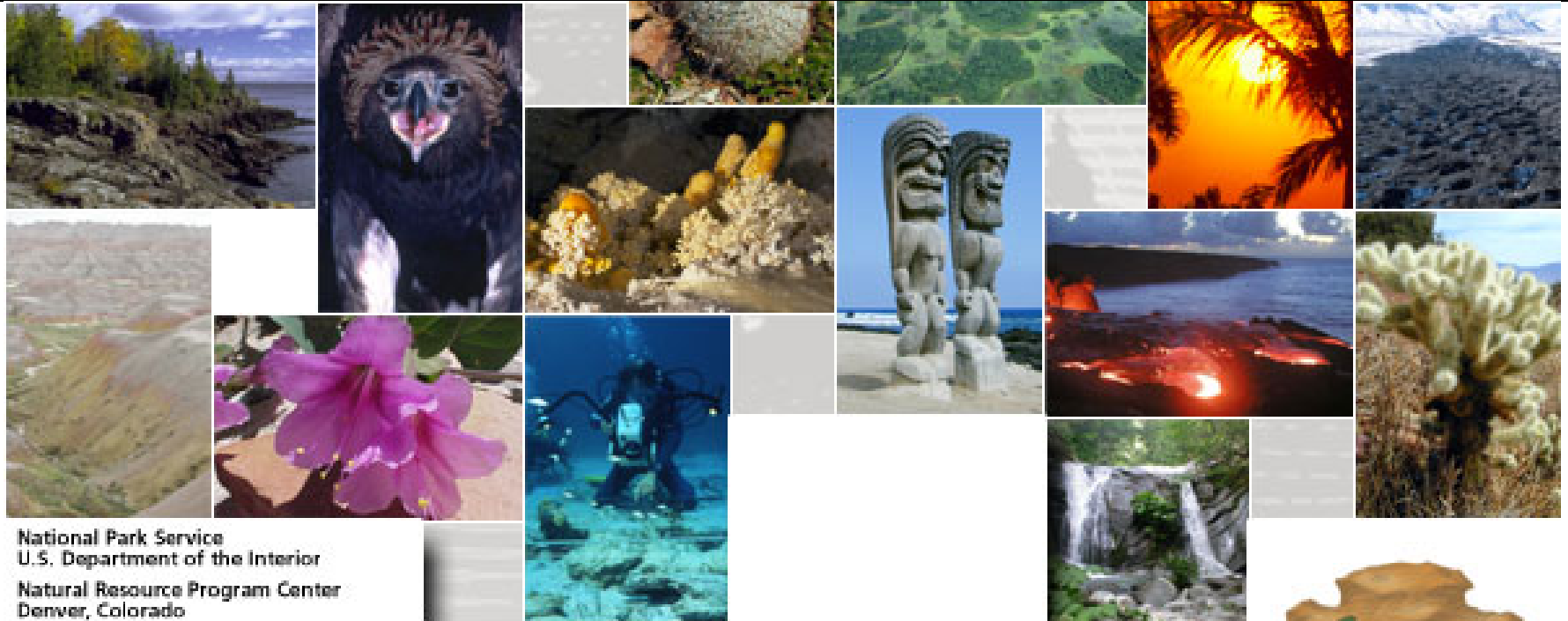


Migratory Bird Program: Park Flight

- A partnership effort to protect shared migratory bird species and their habitats in both U.S. National Parks and Latin American protected areas by implementing site-based bird monitoring and education projects and creating opportunities for technical exchange and cooperation
- Contributing to the objectives of national and international migratory bird conservation efforts, including Partners in Flight, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and the Important Bird Area programs



NPS Natural Resource Challenge



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Natural Resource Program Center
Denver, Colorado

Views of the National Parks

A multimedia education program



<http://www2.nature.nps.gov/views/>

NPS Natural Resource Challenge

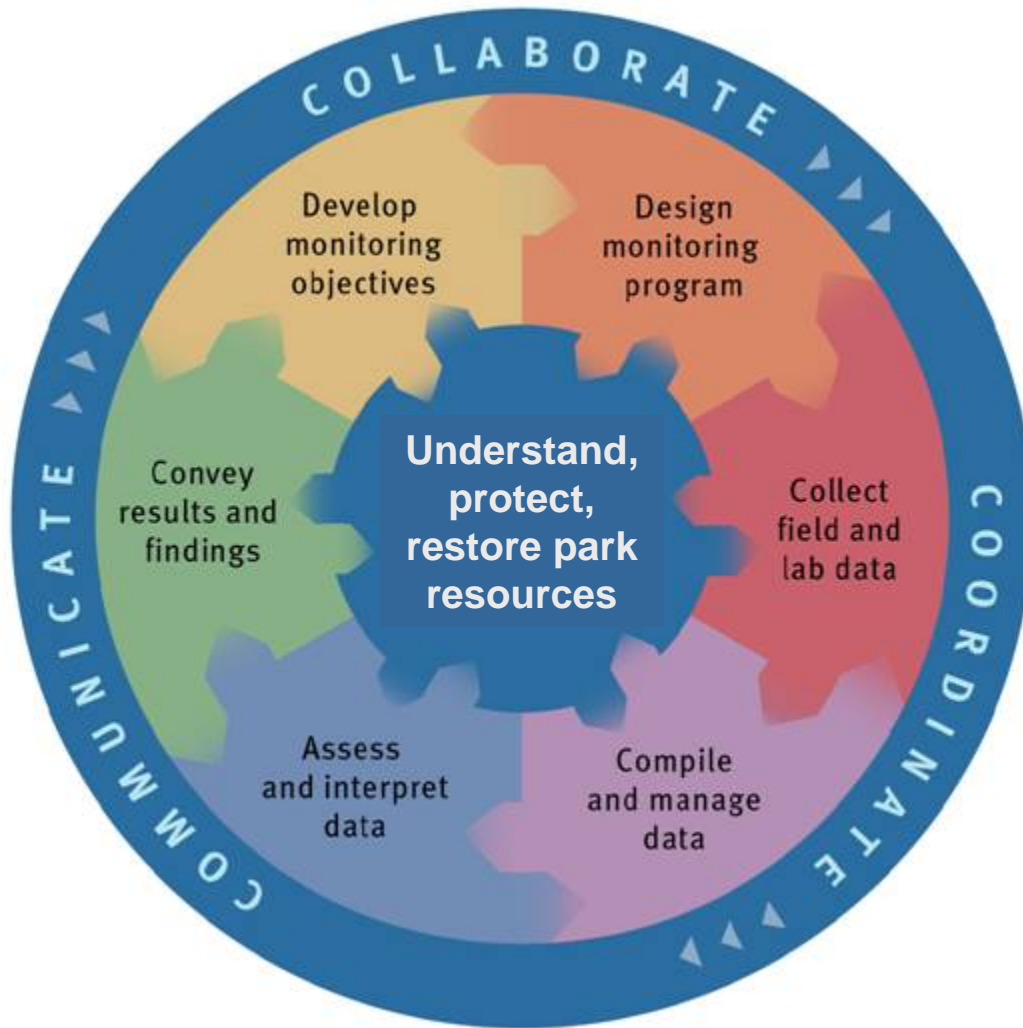


Research Learning Centers

- 16 hub parks
- 75+ associated parks
- 100+ external partners
- Research facilitation
- Disseminate results for park managers & staff
- Engage communities to better understand parks



Park Management Informed by Scientific Information – Integration with other Park Operations



- View monitoring as an information system
- Integrate natural resource information with other park operations
- Make information more useful and available for managers at local level
- Make data available to others for research, education; modeling, more sophisticated analyses

>33% of resources dedicated to data management, analysis, reporting

(Adapted from National Water Quality Monitoring Council)

Progress Report, November 2005

Vital Signs Monitoring



- 222 Parks (82% of 270) have identified vital signs
- 104 Parks (first 12 networks) have completed monitoring plans and have implemented natural resource monitoring
- Remaining networks on schedule to meet or exceed performance targets
- “32 Networks approach” for achieving greater efficiency by sharing funding, personnel and expertise has worked well, particularly for small and medium-sized parks



NPS Natural Resource Challenge



Ocean Stewardship

Resources:

- 3 million acres of ocean and Great Lakes
- 5,000 miles of coast
- 74 ocean parks with more than 76 million visitors annually

Ocean Park Stewardship Action Plan:

- Seamless network of ocean parks, sanctuaries, refuges and reserves
- Discover, map and protect ocean parks
- Engage visitors in stewardship
- Increase NPS technical capacity for ocean exploration and stewardship



NPS Natural Resource Challenge



Money Generation Model Update

- MGM2 produces conservative estimates of the annual impact of visitor spending and park payroll on gateway economies.
- These are key measures of the return on public investment in the National Park System.
- Starting in February 2006, annual FY updates for the NPS Green Book will be available.



Bar Harbor, Maine

NPS Natural Resource Challenge



Money Generation Model Update

- Total contribution of visitor spending to gateway economies (CY 2004):
 - ***\$12.2 billion.***
- Total contribution of park payroll to gateway economies (FY 2003):
 - ***\$585.7 million.***
- At smaller day-use parks the contribution from park payrolls is especially important.



Springdale, Utah

NPS Natural Resource Challenge



Global Climate Change—Grinnell Glacier



NPS Natural Resource Challenge



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Natural Resources Report Card

Status		Trend		Confidence	
	Significant Concern		Condition is Improving		High
	Caution: May be a developing concern		Condition is Unchanged		Medium
	Good: Resources in good condition		Condition is Deteriorating		Low

Park Name	REGION	Air Quality	Water Quality
ABC NP	WWW		
DEF NP	XXX		
GHI NP	YYY		
JKL NP	ZZZ		

Draft Score Card Format*

(ex: 4 parks)

- Condition
 - red: significant concern
 - yellow: moderate concern
 - green: good condition
- Trend
 - improving
 - unchanged
 - deteriorating
- Confidence
 - high
 - medium
 - Low

* Accompanying table provides explanatory text for scores